adhered to in the matter of these allotments; and

(c) by when Government propose to cover the entire rural areas through the network of L.P.G. and other petroleum products ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The number of dealerships/distributorship for which letters of intent were issued during the last three years ending March, 1992 is as under:—

Product	Through OSB	Discretionary Allotments
Petrol/diesel	484	144
SKO/LDO	190	37
LPG	137	129

(b) Discretionary allotments are made by Government in deserving cases on compassionate grounds, etc. Various aspects are taken into consideration while making such allotments.

(c) Dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products are opened in different parts of the country in a phased manner on the basis of demand potential and economic viability of the locations subject to product availability. While network for supply of SKO and Petrol/Diesel to rural areas already exists; there is no plan to supply LPG in rural areas, at present, except in hilly areas.

Use of Natural Gas as Fuel for Vehicles

1465. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Compressed Natural Gas is now being used as fuel for vehicles

(b) whether Government propose to accord priority to meet the needs of consumer cooking fuel (LPG) in order to save forests specially in rural areas; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the use of alcohol in petrol which is renewable and inexpensive and would give value added returns to farmers and reduce pollution through elimination of Tetralead in-petrol as has been done in Europe, USA and other countries ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Compressed Natural Gas is being used in a few vehicles as a partial substitute for petrol/diesel on an experimental basis.

(b) New LPG agencies are being opened in a phased manner at different locations including towns having a population of 20,000 and above, depending upon demand potential availability of product economic viability of distributorship, etc. Kerosene is being supplied in all rural areas for fuel and lighting purposes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

मिट्टी के तेल की कालाबाजारी

1466. **श्री राम सिंह राउत्रा** : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार ने देश में मिट्टी के तेल की कालाबाजारी को रोकने हेतु क्या-क्या कदम उठाए हैं ;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने देश में मिट्टी के तेल के वितरण के कार्य की समीक्षा की है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री बी० शंकरानन्द) : (क) मिट्टी के तेल की कालाबाजारी रोकने के लिए विभिन्न उपाय किए जाते हैं जिनमें निम्नलिखित उपाय शामिल हैं :